

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:246  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007  
TELECOM TARIFF RATES  
Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the tariff for various telecommunication services in the country are higher in comparison to other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the present pulse rates of the various telecommunication services of United States, Australia, China, Pakistan and Sri Lanka separately; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the tariff rates of various telecommunication services in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 246 FOR 3RD DECEMBER, 2007 REGARDING TELECOM TARIFF RATES.

(a) Sir, telecom tariff in India is considered to be on the lower side internationally. However, international comparison of tariff for telecom services is rendered difficult because of multiplicity of alternative tariff packages.

(b) The details of tariff for telecom services as per 'World Telecommunication Development Report 2006 of International Telecommunication Union (ITU)' are given in the Annexure.

(c) Sir, Information on current pulse rates for various countries is not available.

(d) The Government has allowed more telecom operators from time to time to encourage competition which led to reduction of tariff. In addition, the Government has set up an Independent Regulator i.e. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for regulation of Telecom Tariff in the country. The TRAI has taken the following steps to reduce the tariff rates of various telecommunication services in the country:

# Tariff for National Roaming Services were reduced to the extent of 22% to 56% in February, 2007

# Tariff for Leased Circuit is streamlined.

# Interconnection usage charges (IUC) Regulation resulting in uniformity across network, neutral to technology and charges fixed in the form of ceiling.